

if the South are so ignorant, so many Presidents have been elected from Virginia and other Southern States? Now, we have never denied that there are as well educated and as intelligent men in the Southern States as anywhere else. But the objection is that the masses are not educated; the few are educated, but the great mass of the people are left and kept in ignorance, with the view to perpetuate that state of things, and keep the reins of power in their own hands, thus frown down everything like free schools, everything that looks to the education of the masses.

The gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) said this morning that they had no prejudices against poor men in St. Mary's. I was very glad to hear that. He said they liked them just as well as they did rich men; that they even helped to educate them. Well, I do not think they ever have sent many of those they have educated either here or to Congress. And he gave another very flattering and very gratifying exhibit of the state of things in St. Mary's; and that was that they were the most moral, and the purest, and the best educated men in any section of the country. He said that they had academies there and patronized them; and as a proof of the gentleman's appreciation of those advantages, he said that he himself never knew much Greek, and had forgotten the little he had known. [Laughter.]

Mr. BELT. St. Mary's was the only county that filled the quota of the President's call without being subjected to a draft.

Mr. SCOTT. That is very creditable; and shows the advantage of having a large black population.

Mr. BELT. That is just exactly what we maintain.

Mr. SCOTT. There is not a workshop in New England, where there could not be found among those who work over the anvil ten hours a day, men just as well educated as the majority of the men who have these academic advantages in St. Mary's, or any other county in the State. Elihu Burritt, who worked ten hours a day over his anvil, knew more languages than all the slaveholders in Maryland put together; and he never has forgotten his Greek. [Laughter.]

The gentleman from St. Mary's says there was one lesson which they teach their poor young men, and I have no doubt they impress it upon them with a great deal of force. He did not just say it was to mind their own business, but that was evidently what he meant. He said they teach them that they cannot be politically dishonest and personally honest. The meaning of which is, in his mind, that they could not vote for the abolition of slavery and be honest. That is about what he meant, I think.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I spoke of political leaders, who advocate measures for party

purposes, and to bolster up political demagogues. That is the sense in which I used it.

Mr. SCOTT. The gentleman was speaking of the advice which he says he gave to poor men. He said he advised them not to indulge in the intoxicating bowl; not to engage in games of chance—I do not know how they pursue those things there, whether they are much addicted to it or not; and immediately in connection with that he said he advised them that if they were politically dishonest, they could not be personally honest. And I judge from that that he meant it as a sort of wholesome lesson not to engage in this abolition scheme, for it would make them dishonest.

And the gentleman drew a doleful picture of the hardship of emancipation upon those who happen to have their inheritance in slaves. Now, that is no fault of ours. I could draw some doleful pictures myself of the state of things in this country; but I do not want to hold them responsible for it. If a parent bequeathed a part of his property to his children in slaves, that is their misfortune, not our fault. If he had left it to them in ships, and they had been destroyed by the rebel pirates, that would have been equally a misfortune, for which we would not be accountable.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. Will the gentleman permit me a moment to explain?

Mr. SCOTT. Certainly.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I really do not wish the idea to go abroad that I ever advanced any such opinion. I am speaking of the action of this Constitutional Convention. You do not legislate for ships, unless in the way of taking out an insurance. I am speaking of the action of this Constitutional Convention, by which an inequality is effected in the property of individuals, from the fact that in the division of the patrimonial estate certain parties have taken the personal property, and the other parties have taken the real estate. And if by the action of this Convention you liberate the slaves, you make the fortunes of the parties unequal.

Mr. SCOTT. And, Mr. President, how does that compare with the declaration made immediately afterwards, that their slave property is now worthless?

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I said we looked to the General Government for remaneration.

Mr. SCOTT. Well, that does not affect us. The gentleman emphatically said immediately afterwards that slavery was dead in Maryland; that slave property was valueless, and then he sets up a claim for compensation not against the Government of the United States; for we have no objection at all to his going there; he may go to the Queen of England; if he chooses, for compensation, if he can make any claim there. But he said that he set up a claim against the State of Maryland, for the depreciation in the value